

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on April 14, 2006. Minor formal amendments are made to claims 1, 5, and 6. Claim 9 is amended to recite features from original claims 1 and 2. New claim 16 recites features from original claims 4 and 7. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11-13, 15, and 16 are pending in the application.

Restriction was required between (I.) claims 1, 3, 5, 6, and 8 and (II.) claims 9, 11-13, and 15. Applicants elect the invention identified by the Examiner as Group (II.), with traverse. In support of the requirement for restriction, the Examiner argued that “The apparatus as claimed can be [used to practice] another and materially different process such as injection or compression molding the fibers directly with a binder”. Applicants agree completely with the Examiner that processes conducted with binder are materially different from the presently claimed process. However, Applicants respectfully contend that it would not be unduly burdensome to examine both of these inventions together in this application, due to the interaction of advantages of the present process and the special suitability of the apparatus for conducting the present process.

In response to the requirement for election of species, Applicants elect Resin Transfer Molding. Claims 9, 11-13, 15, and 16 read on the elected species.

COPENDING APPLICATION. The Examiner’s attention is drawn to copending application Serial No. 10/783,548, filed February 20, 2004.

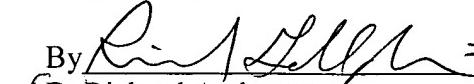
The Examiner is invited to telephone Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781), at (703) 205-8008, with any questions concerning this application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

**APR 28 2006**

Respectfully submitted,

By  #28,781

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